

From: J. Edward Maddox
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/20/02 7:51pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

4829 Crittenden Drive
Ashland, KY 41101

January 19, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Thankfully, the government got smart towards the end of litigation and decided not to break up the best asset our country has in the technology industry. I think that the recent antitrust case settlement is extremely harsh, and it reflects the intense lobbying efforts of Microsoft's competitors.

Originally the case was brought to suit because the consumers' rights might have been violated. Even though I have never felt that my rights have been infringed upon, the settlement does nothing to make my life any easier. All it does is give competition that had less success than Microsoft a chance to compete in a market that Microsoft dominated through hard work. Under the terms of settlement, Microsoft will be giving competitors information about their internal interfaces and protocols. They will also be granting computer makers broad new rights to configure Windows to more easily promote non-Microsoft products.

While I believe the settlement is flawed, I still think it is in the public's and our economy's best interests to make the settlement a reality as soon as possible. Further litigation would be detrimental to our nation's health. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edward Maddox

